



E-NEWS from *Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn*

An electronic legislative update for September 26, 2002

DID YOU KNOW...

According to a recent CNN/USA Today/Gallup survey:

- By a 77 percent to 20 percent margin, Americans say that Saddam Hussein will NOT agree to inspections meeting UN requirements.
- By a 68 percent to 27 percent margin, Americans say UN inspections would NOT eliminate the threat of Iraq using weapons of mass destruction against the US.
- When asked to list the issues of most concern, respondents most frequently ranked terrorism as their number one issue.

JENNIFER MEETS WITH NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISORS AT WHITE HOUSE TO DISCUSS IRAQ

Late last week, Jennifer went to the White House to meet with National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice and CIA Director George Tenet to discuss the situation in Iraq. Jennifer requested the meeting because in order to support a congressional resolution authorizing military action against Iraq, she wanted answers to several specific questions. Following her meeting, she released this statement:

"I am now convinced that Iraq is a threat immediate enough to warrant action. The US has compelling evidence that Saddam Hussein has evil intentions against the United States and is moving very rapidly toward amassing weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

"I join many Americans, however, in believing that international support is critical to our efforts. I commend the Administration and Secretary Colin Powell in particular for working so hard to build this growing international coalition so effectively.

"My first duty as a Member of Congress is to assure that the security of Americans and the safety of people I represent is protected. If peaceful efforts to destroy Iraq's weapons or to bring about a regime change fail, then I have decided to authorize any means necessary to accomplish these goals. As the President has consistently said, military force should always be a last resort.

"Today's meeting was thoughtful and insightful and I am confident that it is time to move forward and confront the real threat that Iraq poses to the world."



Jennifer recently traveled to NY to participate in the special session of Congress at Freedom Hall. The purpose of the session was to commemorate the anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks and honor the victims.



Governor Pataki and Jennifer in New York during the special session of Congress.



Earlier this week, Jennifer met with the President of Kyrgyzstan, Askar Akayev. Kyrgyzstan has been an ally to the US in the war on terrorism and has allowed 2,000 troops to be stationed near the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek. During this visit, President Akayev also met with President Bush and Vice President Cheney.

What is going on this week?

US HOUSE SCHEDULED TO CONSIDER FUNDING FOR COUNTERTERRORISM, SAFETY OF US EMBASSIES ABROAD

The US House has passed a bill to provide \$8.6 billion to help the US fight terrorism overseas and to ensure the safety of men and women working in American embassies abroad. The bill is the final version of the "Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 2003." In addition to providing funds for counter terrorism efforts abroad, it requires the State Department to recruit individuals with extensive foreign service experience, to work to reform the UN Commission on Human Rights and to report to Congress on foreign governments that refuse to extradite criminals for prosecution in the US. Jennifer voted in support of the measure.

US HOUSE SCHEDULED TO CONSIDER MEASURE ENCOURAGING SENATE TO PASS BILL TO PROTECT EMPLOYEE PENSIONS

The US House has passed a measure that “expressed the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should complete action on the Pension Security Act of 2002.” On April 11, 2002, the House passed a bill that protects employees’ pension savings by allowing retirement savings be diversified, requiring employers to offer more education and information regarding their retirement plans and protecting against corporate abuses and mismanagement of pensions. The Senate however, has failed to consider the measure. Jennifer voted in support of the resolution.

What we did last week;

US HOUSE PASSES MEASURE CALLING FOR SENATE ACTION ON WELFARE REAUTHORIZATION; *Current Law Expires on September 30*

The US House of Representatives has approved a measure encouraging the Senate to act on welfare reauthorization prior to September 30, 2002, the date that current law expires. Nearly 5 months ago, the House passed the “Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2002,” which provides an additional \$4 billion for child care, provides parents with more flexibility to go to school or obtain job training and helps more families collect back due child support. The Senate, however, has failed to act on the legislation. Jennifer is a Member of the House Ways and Means Committee that oversees welfare. She helped author both the 1996 welfare reform bill and the recent reauthorization.

US HOUSE PASSED MEASURE CALLING FOR SENATE ACTION ON PERMANENT DEATH TAX REPEAL

The US House has approved a resolution calling for Senate action on the Permanent Death Tax Repeal Act of 2002 prior to adjournment for the year. Jennifer was the leader in the House’s successful effort to pass repeal of the death tax as part of the comprehensive tax relief package signed into law last spring. But an arcane Senate rule requires all tax relief measures—including death tax repeal—to expire on December 31, 2010. While a bipartisan majority of the House passed a bill that would make the death tax repeal permanent, the Senate has failed to act on the legislation. Jennifer has worked for several years to repeal the death tax because it is a form of double, and sometimes triple taxation that is very hurtful to American families, small business owners and family-owned farms. She believes that temporary repeal of the unfair tax provides only minimal relief to family-owned small businesses because they must still expend valuable resources on costly estate planning.

Jennifer and Majority Leader Dick Armey held a press conference last week on the topic.

Summary of Press Releases;

US REP JENNIFER DUNN ANNOUNCES \$4.3 MILLION FOR ISSAQUAH HIGHLANDS PARK & RIDE

Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn announced that King County will receive \$4,295,423 for the new Issaquah Highlands Park and Ride facility. The funds announced today are part of nearly \$10 million that Congresswoman Dunn has secured for the project. The dollars announced will help fund preliminary planning, land acquisition and construction of the project. Congresswoman Dunn has been working for several years to make the project a reality. Congresswoman Dunn secured the funds through the appropriations process and called the announcement, “excellent news.” She said, “As we learned from preliminary planning studies, there is a tremendous need for new Park and Ride facilities in Issaquah. This is a very worthwhile project that will help ease some of our traffic congestion in the region.”